

15/11/2020

Interview with Gary (Gaz) Lasky

Gary is a busy individual who works as an entrepreneur and is a director in his sports & consulting business. He has been volunteering for 7 years with the Father Bob Foundation feeding homeless people around StKilda and collecting food every Sunday. He works for Bowls Vic. Coaching children lawn bowls and is a presenter & assessor, where he teaches new sport coaches in a train the trainer capacity.

CL

What other not for profits have you volunteered for?

GL

Bike Victoria –Tas./NZ/Round Bay- With infrastructure set up and pull-down crew, security and parking.

Woodford Folk Festival Qld– In ticketing and securing wristbands.

ConFest – Since the late 80's doing various tasks such as; welcoming new arrivals, helping at Fire as crew, cleaning up before festivals, cooking at arts, signage, fixing/decorating the front gate, dust suppression or various shifts at comms.

Dancing Ground Festival – a weekend community run event at Gembrook, it has workshops on alternative healing, dance & feasting. Assisted in infrastructure and helped in workshops, cooking.

CL

In the nominations write-up you said that Boards should plan and Executives deal with the daily operations. By Executives I assume you mean the Organising Committee to deal with operations. Please elaborate on the different roles you think both entities should have.

GL

Basically the Board should be making macro plans ie; future longevity, ensuring ConFest next year and consider what type of festival that it can be given emerging legislative and restriction changes due to Covid. It should be doing this with the help from members. The executive arm (OC) should concentrate on micro issues ie. Running the organisation, insurance, vehicle expenses, rates, bills, overheads, etc.

The board and standing committees are supposed to work together. DTE is a living breathing creature and not a fixated top down structure. Members should have a view and everyone work together to the best of their ability for DTE.

I think the current Board lost sight of DTE as an organisation, it is too emotionally charged and isn't focused on its primary purpose which is ConFest and to look after the entity and protect its future. It seems that members lost the meaning of structure and purpose, it should not get involved in situations where directors threaten liquidation.

CL

Since I have been a part of DTE there have been factions. When I was first elected to the Board I was surprised that my phone ran hot. There were attempts to corral by groups or by members wanting to know who my loyalties was to. I admit for the first year there was socialising and that became important to me and I did fall in with a group. Since then I have worked to have friendly but professional relationships with fellow directors. So my question to you, if you are elected, an attempt to seduce you into a voting block is highly likely, if that should eventuate how will you remain independent?

GL

By not losing sight of a director's purpose and their goal. The goal is to constantly improve DTE and ensure the efficient longevity of Confest, not overspending. It is about being efficient, about adapting to current government and council regulations, we don't have the luxury of working the way things worked in the past, we have to move into the 21st Century. Maintaining focus is the key, not having hidden agendas, looking at what is best for the organisation as a whole.

CL

Why do you want to become a director and commit 2 years of your life to DTE?

GL

I have attended ConFest for 32 years and it is time to give back. As a player in sport and coached from a young age, at some point I wanted to give back to what I love. There becomes a time to step up and impart to others the coaching that had been given to me. Now I've become involved in training players and other coaches. For me it is important to give back to something I love. I am happy to work for the longevity of DTE and ConFest.

CL

Gary (Gaz) Lasky thank you for your time.